Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative Request for Proposals Informational Meeting

Emily Heaton heaton6@illinois.edu
Anya Knecht knecht2@illinois.edu

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Go.illinois.edu/irai

ISEE

CROP SCIENCES
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

FRESH TASTE

Agenda

3:30-4 p.m.:

- Welcome and overview (Anya Knecht, Associate Director, IRAI)
- POLL: *Why are you attending this meeting?*
- IRAI 2021 Request for Proposals (Emily Heaton, Director, IRAI)

4-4:40 p.m.: Breakout sessions - 2 (15 min each)

- Connect researchers and stakeholders
- Collate questions for FAQ sheet

4:40-4:55 p.m.: Reporting back (Emily Heaton)

4:55 p.m.: Wrap up and next steps (Anya Knecht)

Our team

- IRAI Leadership team :
  - Emily Heaton, Director
  - Anya Knecht, Associate Director
- University of Illinois internal advisory team
  - Kim Kidwell, Professor and Dean, College of Ag, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences
  - Madhu Khanna, ACES Endowed Professor, Dept. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics; Interim director of ISEE
  - Adam Davis, Professor and Head, Dept. of Crop Sciences
  - Evan DeLucia, Arends Professor, Dept. of Plant Biology

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4-4:45 p.m.: Breakout sessions - 2 (15 min each)

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Overview

IRAI: Interdisciplinary, Integrative, and Interactive:

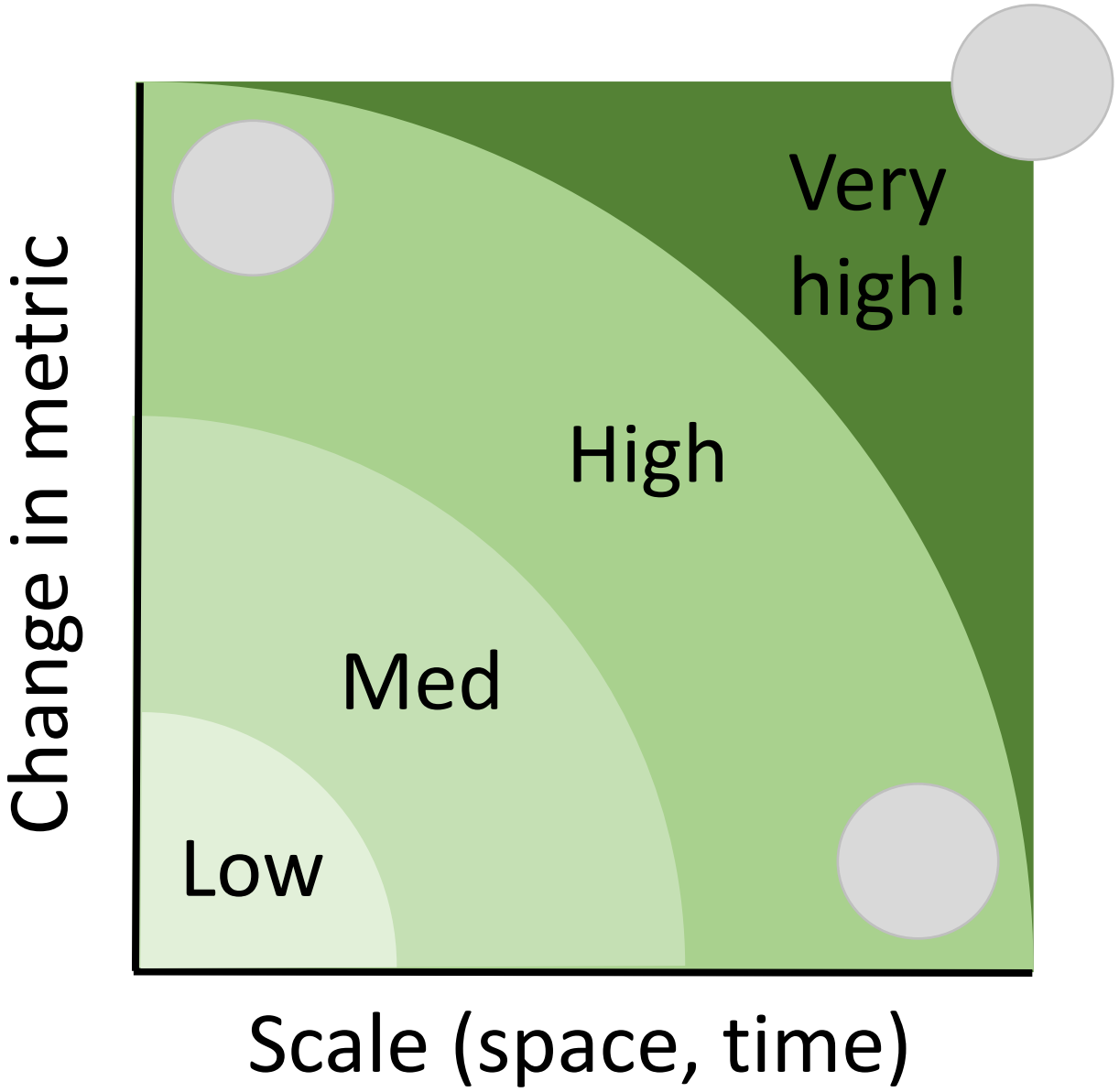
Promote research, educational, and outreach activities, and heighten visibility in regenerative agriculture.

- Build *capacity*: actionable research and training the next generation of practitioners
- Build *relationships*: connect the stakeholder and the academic community; mitigate challenges to adoption
- Long-term *impact*: Secure sustained financial support

What is Regenerative Agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture: An outcome-based approach to achieve improvements in soil quality, biodiversity, food security, and community & environmental health

Regenerative agriculture **Impact** = (change) times (scale)



2021 IRAI Request for Proposals

- Purpose
- Funding
- Eligibility
- Deadlines
- Evaluation
- Format
- Support

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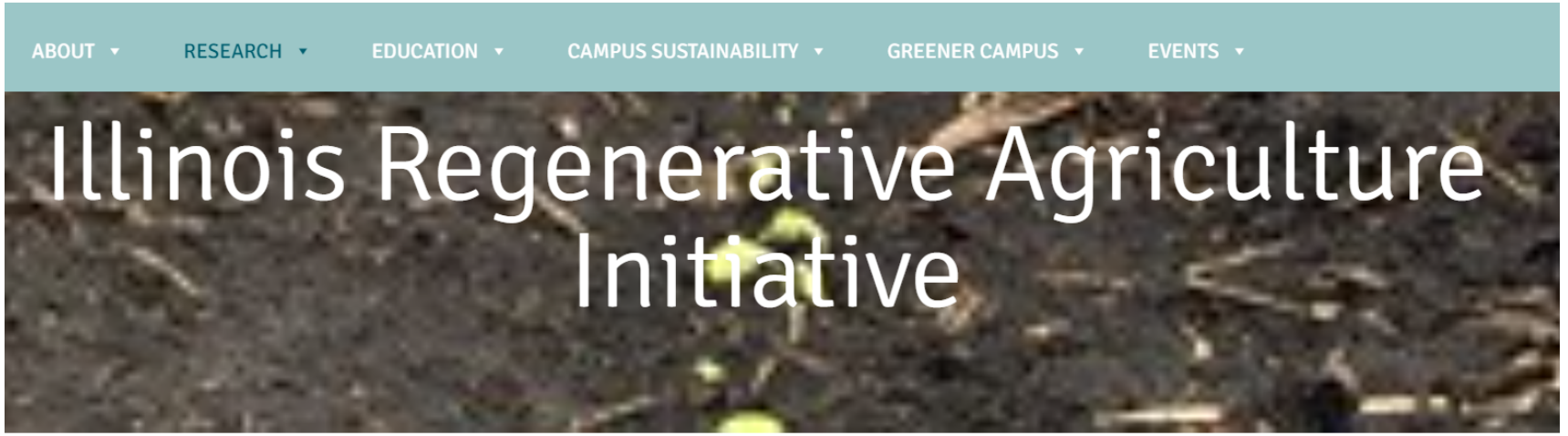


2021 Request for Proposals!
Go.illinois.edu/irai

What is the Purpose of the RFP?

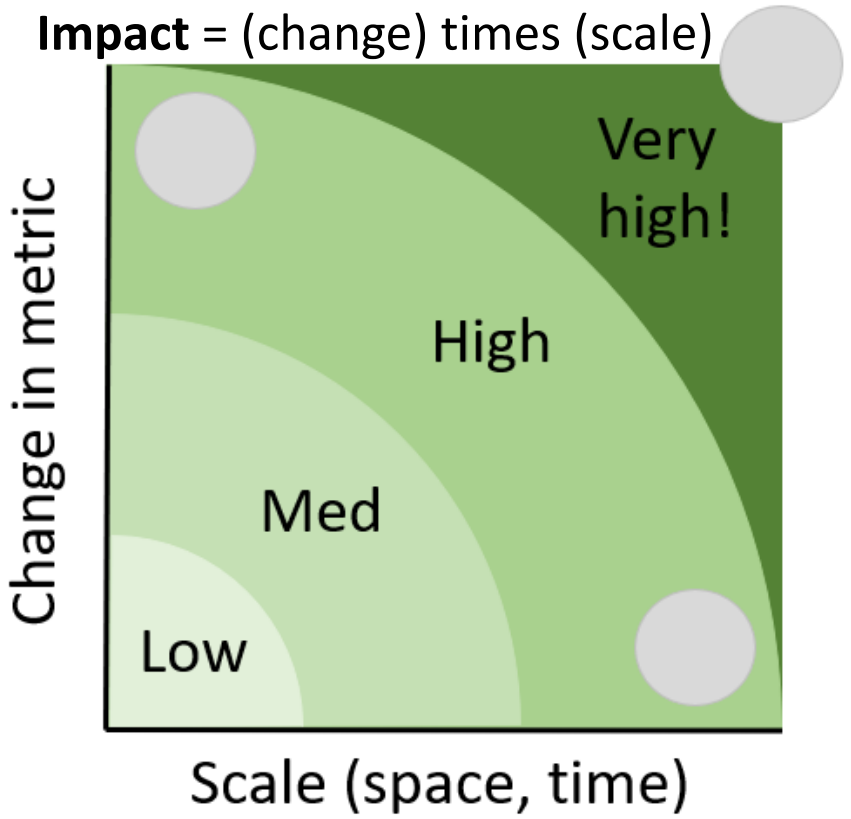
To achieve IRAI goals:

1. Build *capacity*: actionable research and training the next generation of practitioners
2. Build *relationships*: connect the stakeholder and the academic community; mitigate challenges to adoption
3. Long-term *impact*: Secure sustained financial support

How does RFP-funded work address IRAI goals?

- What regenerative agriculture *metrics* will your project assess?
- How will a change in those metrics indicate the *impact* of your project?

→ Where would your project fit on this graph?



What funding is available?

- Awards up to $50K over 12-24 months.
- Awards beginning Sept 1, 2021
- Anticipate making 3-5 awards, depending on proposals received

Deadlines

Proposals due **Wednesday June 30, 2021**

- Submit applications through this two-step process:
  1) Email a **compiled pdf** of all proposal sections to **Anya Knecht (knecht2@illinois.edu) with "IRAI Proposal Submission"** in the subject line**;**
  2) Complete a google form indicating that you have emailed your submission. The link to this form is in the RFP and will be on IRAI website: Go.illinois.edu/irai

Who is eligible?

- Teams composed of at least one **UIUC** and one **stakeholder** member
- Stakeholders are broadly considered (not only farmers and agribusiness)

Evaluation criteria

- Quality and innovativeness of the proposed work
- Clear articulation of how the proposed work will advance IRAI goals (see Purpose)
- Clear articulation of regenerative agriculture metrics quantified (e.g., acres planted, product produced, people reached, people trained, etc.)
- Probable impact the proposed work would have on the problem at hand
- Suitability of the team to tackle the problem at hand
- Probable longevity of the team beyond the IRAI funding period
- Likelihood to increase regenerative agriculture awareness within and beyond the agricultural community

Format

- Cover page with summary
- Narrative (3 pg maximum)
- Team description (2 pg maximum)
- CV/resume for each team member with leadership responsibilities (2 pg maximum per person)
- Budget (template on IRAI website)
  - No overhead allowed
  - Disbursement arrangements will be arranged upon selection

Support

- Questions? We will post answers to Frequently Asked Questions on IRAI website after this meeting.
- Still have questions? Contact Emily Heaton AND Anya Knecht with **“IRAI RFP”** in the subject line.
- Need to find a partner? We will share contact information from this meeting with meeting participants. Please us know if you do NOT want your name/email shared. We will not share it outside of this meeting.

Breakout Session Instructions:

Everyone has been randomly assigned to a breakout room. 2 Rounds: 15 min each. We ask everyone to participate and practice good zoom etiquette.

Instructions:

1) Access Google docs here (in chat).

2) Assign a notetaker

3) 1-minute introductions

Breakout Session Instructions:

4) Record questions/comments you would like addressed in the FAQ list.

The google doc is the central place to voice your questions and concerns!

Reporting back

Our observed highlights from google doc

What burning questions or comments should address before adjourning?

Wrap up:

Thank you for your time!

- Check the website for updates and answers to FAQs.

- Participant list & contact information

- We are here to help support you! We can't wait to hear your ideas and welcome all types of proposals!

Contact us at:

Emily Heaton heaton6@illinois.edu; Anya Knecht knecht2@illinois.edu